

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

VOLUME XXIII, NUMBER 33

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MAY 17, 1954

Who Profits?

By Walter E. Myer

RICHARD Evans, widely known for his inspirational radio talks, recently commented that schoolwork—after all—is done not primarily for the teacher's benefit, but for the pupil's. When a young person makes a good record in school, he does a much greater favor for himself than for anyone else.

Students often resent parents' or teachers' insistence that they put increased effort on their studies. These young people fail to see that the adult can have little reason for such insistence, aside from concern over the youth's own welfare.

It is indeed strange that parents and teachers are sometimes portrayed as "slave drivers"—cracking the whip over unwilling and reluctant students. Why should it ever be necessary to force the student to gather the knowledge and training which will eventually help him lead a more successful and satisfying life?

It would be far easier for the parent or teacher to shrug his shoulders and say, "Let them study or not, as they please. If they don't want to learn, that's their business. It's no worry of mine." In fact, some parents take exactly this attitude, and society scorns and condemns them for neglecting their children's best interests.

Schools have been established and are maintained in this country at great expense. The young person who takes advantage of the opportunities they offer will benefit in various ways:

First, he will acquire knowledge and skills to help him earn a good living for himself and his family later on.

Second, he will learn about his government and the problems it faces—learn to vote intelligently, to carry the duties of citizenship in a manner that will help make his country a better place in which to live.

Third, he will develop interests in certain fields simply as a means of making his life more enjoyable. Perhaps he will learn to appreciate art or music, to engage in sports, to enjoy reading, or to follow any number of other recreational and cultural pursuits.

Fourth, he will acquire the habit of doing his job well. This habit in itself, even if he later takes up a line of work entirely different from that for which he prepares in school, will take him a long way toward success.

In many parts of the world, young people are not given anything like the educational opportunities enjoyed by American youths. Young people in many lands clamor for an education. They would like nothing better than to have the extensive schooling that is available to boys and girls in our country.

It is a smart student, therefore, who realizes that he is working for himself—not for his parents or his teachers. If he shirks, he is shirking against himself. If he cheats, he is cheating himself. If—on the other hand—he devotes real effort to his lessons, he is devoting it to himself.



Walter E. Myer



TWO JAPANESE GIRLS, in western-style dress, go shopping in Tokyo

Arms Aid for Japan

U. S. Is Helping Former Enemy Nation Strengthen Defenses
In Face of Threat Posed by Chinese Reds

JAPAN, whose attack on Pearl Harbor touched off World War II, is taking up arms again. After being deprived of weapons for 8½ years, the Far Eastern nation is today building an army, navy, and air force. Its rearmament is being undertaken at the urging of the United States, the nation that 10 years ago was engaged in deadly combat with Japan's troops throughout the Pacific area.

Seldom has there been such an abrupt reversal of national policy as the U. S. has taken in regard to Japan. In World War II, we suffered thousands of losses in the Pacific fighting. When that conflict ended, we declared that Japan would never be permitted to wage war again. She was forbidden to have an army, navy, or air force. The constitution which the Japanese adopted during the U. S. occupation of the country positively prohibited rearmament.

Conditions have changed vastly, though, since that time. Right after the global war ended, Japan's aggression was fresh in everyone's mind. China, the other big power in the Far East, was ruled by our ally, Chiang Kai-shek.

But in 1949, the Chinese communists drove Chiang to Formosa. About a year later they threw themselves into the Korean conflict against the

United States and the United Nations. For some years the Chinese Reds have been supplying arms, equipment, and military advice to the communist rebels in Indochina.

Meanwhile, Japan has been developing along democratic lines under U. S. guidance. She has not posed the threat to peace that it was once feared she would. Instead, it has become obvious that the Chinese communists are the big trouble makers in the Far East. Thus, our leaders are now convinced that Japan must be permitted and even encouraged to protect herself against the communist threat.

Consequently, our country and Japan signed a defense pact about two months ago. We pledged military and economic aid to Japan in return for her pledge to rebuild her armed forces under our guidance. The U. S. is expected to supply close to 100 million dollars' worth of aid by June 30, including tanks, guns, and training planes.

In the treaty, Japan agreed to buy up to 50 million dollars' worth of surplus wheat and barley from our country. We plan to use this money in buying military supplies in Japan, and in building up that nation's arms industry.

(Continued on page 2)

Comic Booklets: Harmful or Not?

Senate Group Studies Evidence
Offered by Spokesmen on
Both Sides of Issue

ACCORDING to the dictionary, a comic means "mirth-provoking" or "light and amusing." It therefore seems strange that comics is the name generally given to all the millions of cartoon books now published and sold. Large numbers of these books are designed to shock or provide thrills—rather than to be "light and amusing."

From 70 to 100 million comic books, it is reported, are sold in America each month. This tremendous circulation has been developed over a period of about 16 years. A 1938 Superman series marked the beginning of the present boom in such publications.

A high percentage of the comics now published go to children and youths. Very large numbers of these books deal with crime, violence, and horror. Individuals familiar with such books are concerned over this question: Do comics exert a harmful influence upon young people?

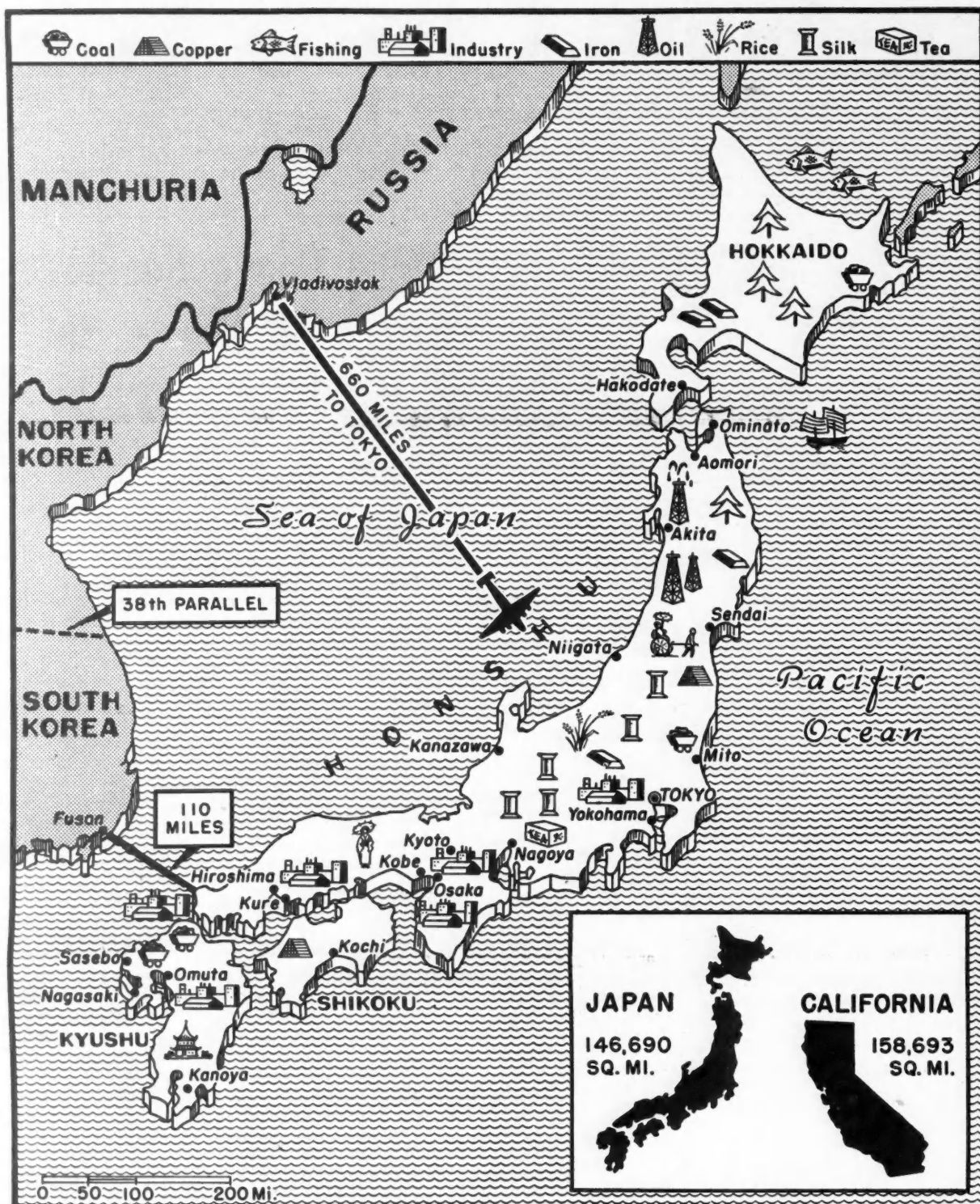
Various groups of prominent Americans have studied the question. One of the most recent is the U. S. Senate Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency, headed by Senator Robert Hendrickson of New Jersey. At hearings conducted last month in New York, this group questioned spokesmen on both sides of the issue.

Mr. William Gaines, a publisher who claims to be the originator of "horror comics," testified: "I am proud of the comics I publish." Psychiatrist Fredric Wertham, on the other hand, condemned the horror and crime pamphlets as harmful in many ways. He said, for instance, that they often "show evil as triumphant, and teach children criminal techniques."

Similar disputes have arisen about other mediums of entertainment that are popular among young people. Television and certain types of movies are attacked and defended. *Time* magazine reports the following "toll" for a single week of major TV crime shows: one man brained with a monkey wrench, three women killed with knives or razors, four or five men shot to death, one boy killed by a hit-and-run driver, three people beaten and mauled, one man shot and wounded. Does this parade of violence harm the young people who watch it, or does it succeed in putting across the lesson that crime does not pay?

People who feel that American young people are being subjected to extremely bad influences—from comic books, television, and other forms of entertainment—argue as follows: "Juvenile crime is on the upswing

(Concluded on page 6)



JAPAN CANNOT RAISE ENOUGH FOOD on her islands for her huge and steadily growing population

Japan Rearms

(Continued from page 1)

By March 1955, Japan is scheduled to have ground forces of 140,000, sea forces of 16,000, and an air force of 6,000. Japanese leaders say that the new forces will be "purely defensive"; thus they hope to stay within the framework of the "anti-war" constitution that went into effect some years ago.

The communists and the other extremist groups in Japan have been angrily denouncing the U. S.-Japanese pact. The communists know, of course, that the formation of a defense force working closely with the United States is a big obstacle to their goal of taking over the country. They are stirring up feeling against America whenever the opportunity presents itself.

Despite their efforts, a majority of people in that country appear to feel friendly toward us. Large numbers of Japanese are grateful for the protection that our military force—still stationed in that land—has given them. They are thankful, too, for

the financial aid. Since 1945 we have spent about 2 billion dollars for food and raw materials that have gone to Japan.

At the same time, those Japanese who are friendly to us have ideas of their own. Certain of their views may easily lead to conflicts of opinion with us in the months ahead. We may better understand how large groups of Japanese feel and think about international problems by taking a look at these people who are crowded into four main islands and a number of very small ones.

Japan's population of 87 million is over half that of the United States, and it is growing by more than one million each year. By 1970, Japan will probably have in excess of 100 million people.

The Japanese live in an area smaller than that of California. There are about 582 persons to the square mile in Japan as compared to about 52 in the United States. Furthermore, only a part of Japan's land—an area similar in size to that of West Virginia—is fit for farming. There is only about one square mile of farm land for each 4,000 persons.

With so little ground under cul-

tivation, Japan cannot grow enough food. In fact, it is amazing that Japanese farmers produce 80 per cent of their country's food needs. The farmers do so by raising two or more crops on the same piece of ground each year, rather than the customary single crop.

Japanese farmers do most of their work by hand, and their methods are old-fashioned by our standards. Nevertheless, they are probably the most able farmers in all Asia. They know how to get the biggest possible yield of rice, which is their principal crop and main food.

With all their skill and hard work, Japanese farmers fall short of producing the country's food needs by 20 per cent. This amount must be bought from other countries at a cost of over half a billion dollars each year. Japan buys more rice abroad than does any other country, and she is one of the world's biggest buyers of wheat.

Food available at home and bought from other lands provides Japan's millions with a simple diet of rice, other grains, fish, and vegetables. The Japanese get little meat. Most of them get barely enough to eat of any kind of food.

Although lacking in raw materials, except for coal, Japan is a great manufacturing nation. A skilled foreign correspondent has observed: "Japan is to Asia what Germany is to Europe."

The Asiatic land makes ships, heavy machinery, automobiles, chemicals, steel, cotton and silk goods, dishes, cameras, and toys. She is the great industrial producer in Asia. In normal times, the sale of Japan's products abroad pays both for raw materials to run her factories and for the food which must be bought from other lands.

Before World War II, Japan did business all around the world, but most of her trade before and during the war was with Asiatic nations. She sold more than 60 per cent of her goods to these countries. She obtained roughly half of the food and raw materials she needed from Asia—especially from Chinese Manchuria and other areas she conquered.

As a result of the war, Japan lost her territories. She lost almost all her trade, too. This was partly because she had almost no goods to sell after her defeat, and partly because old customers in Asia had no money to spend.

Food for Japan

The United States, as noted earlier, supplied Japan with food and helped her to get factories started again. The Japanese did some business with Red China and Russia for a time after the war, but this business was halted in 1950 after the Reds attacked South Korea.

The Korean conflict, however, brought Japan new business. The United States began to buy machinery and many supplies it needed in Korea from Japan. Our purchases have made us Japan's biggest customer, and we are likely to continue to hold that position for another year or so.

In the long run, though, the Japanese know that they must do more and more business in Asia—if they are to make a living. Japanese businessmen have been making a big sales drive in Indonesia, Ceylon, India, Burma, Thailand, and other countries of southeastern Asia. Many Japanese are also thinking about ways to trade with Red China.

Those who favor trade with communist China say:

"China, especially the region of Manchuria, has iron, tin, tungsten, and other raw materials that Japan desperately needs. In turn, China needs manufactured goods in almost unlimited quantity. The vast Chinese market is one that can make Japan really prosperous, along with other markets that may be found throughout Asia.

"We are not communist, but we do believe that trade with communist countries is necessary. By trading with China, we may cause her to become more friendly to us and to other non-communist nations."

Those who are against trade with Red China say:

"Japan obtained valuable raw materials from Chinese Manchuria before the war, it is true. But remember that Japan conquered the area in 1932. Japanese engineers and businessmen forced trade with Manchuria. Communists rule the region now, and conditions are different. Japan cannot expect to make any profit dealing with the Reds."

"Japan can help deal a blow to communism by withholding goods from China. Surely the Japanese don't want to supply goods to the Red Chinese—who fought against freedom in Korea and, who, if they had won there, probably would have gone on to attack Japan."

The argument over foreign trade is made more acute by the fact that Japan has been falling behind some of her competitors—West Germany, to name one—in the struggle for markets. One big reason is that Japanese manufactured products often do not match those turned out in some other lands, either in price or quality. For example, it is possible to purchase a German refrigerator in Japan, import tax included, for less than what it costs to buy a Japanese refrigerator.

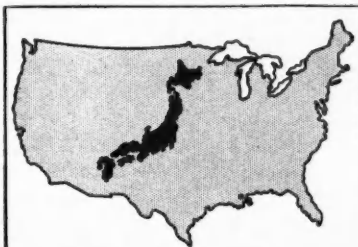
Old Equipment

There are various reasons behind this situation. Much of Japan's industrial machinery is out of date, and factories frequently use outdated, costly methods. Moreover, labor is not as "cheap" as it sometimes seems, for it often takes several Japanese workmen, using old equipment and outmoded practices, to do the same amount of work that one U. S. laborer can turn out. These factors all tend to boost the cost of the finished product.

The Japanese government, under Premier Shigeru Yoshida, is trying to bring about improved conditions, mainly through belt-tightening. They are trying, for one thing, to keep Japanese workers from seeking increased wages, so that prices of Japanese products will not be pushed so high as to put them at a further competitive disadvantage in foreign markets. Many workers are unhappy over this policy, but the hope is being held out to them that their situation will be improved later if they are patient for the time being.

Though the belt-tightening program is not popular, it seems to be getting results. Prices have been dropping to some extent, and Japan is getting her purchases and sales abroad into better balance.

The issues affecting trade must be ironed out if Japan and our country are to have the best possible relations. The Yoshida government is



DRAWN FOR THE AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON
A COMPARISON of the U. S. and Japan

pursuing a policy of friendship with us, but the opposition groups in the Japanese legislature are all making a point of anti-Americanism.

A recently disclosed bribery scandal in Japan has reflected unfavorably on some of Yoshida's advisers. If the Yoshida government should fall, we may find it much more difficult to keep Japan lined up with us. It is extremely important for us to keep that nation on our side, since it is vitally needed to aid in the defense of free Asia against communist aggression.



A JAPANESE MOTHER uses a cushion in place of a chair while she does some mending—and, at the same time, keeps an eye on her small child

CHANGE IN AN ANCIENT LAND

Japanese Are Trying Western Ways

THERE'S a "new look" in Japan. It's come about in the years since World War II, and is largely the result of western influence brought about by the presence of American occupation soldiers.

The Japanese, for the first time, are living under a democratic form of government. Along with the idea of democracy, they've also taken up many western ways of life.

Japanese women, for example, once were treated almost as servants by men in the family. The women dressed in kimonos, plain ones for everyday and beautifully embroidered ones for special occasions. They were taught how to do housework and little else.

Women's Rights

Japanese women today are guaranteed equal rights with men under their constitution. The women may vote, as men do, and a number of them hold seats in the Diet (Japanese legislature). Both men and women debate political issues in community meetings.

More and more women are dressing in American-style clothing, although some still prefer the kimono as an evening dress. Girls now are given the same education as boys. There is a new school system with grade schools, high schools, and colleges modeled somewhat on the American pattern. Six years of grade school are compulsory for all.

The Japanese liked baseball and American movies long before World War II, and those two forms of amusement are now more popular than ever before. Tennis, golf, football, and skiing are among Japanese sports. And, of course, Japanese swimmers and wrestlers are famous for their endurance in championship contests.

Although many Japanese, even in rural areas, have adopted numerous western customs, much of the old way of life remains. Most of the people still sit on floor mats or cushions and eat rice with chopsticks from bowls placed on low tables.

Houses still are built of wood, bamboo, and straw. Rooms inside are separated by sliding doors which may be taken away to make one big room out of several small ones. Homes usually have electric lights, but cook-

ing generally is done on tiny charcoal stoves.

Many Japanese in the cities, who've come to know Americans, have learned to like coffee in place of tea—as well as candy bars and other western tidbits. Some Japanese prepare a special dish of thin slices of meat mixed with vegetables, but meat costs too much for most of the population. Rice is the chief food, along with vegetables, fish, and fruits.

An office worker in Japan earns only about \$28 a month, and a railway employe receives only \$37. The food bill usually takes more than half of the month's income.

Young people in the cities of Japan are the most enthusiastic supporters of western customs. There are many older Japanese, especially in rural areas, who want to keep their former ways of life. Some Americans think that a reaction against western manners is developing in Japan.

Geographically, it is well to remember that Japan is an island nation. There are many small islands and four large ones—Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu. Total area of about 147,000 square miles is a little less than that of California.

Mountainous Land

Seven eighths of the territory is covered by mountains. More than 500 of the mountains are volcanoes, and several erupt smoking lava from time to time. There are hundreds of small bays along the coasts and many lakes are to be found inland.

The weather in the south is warm, but northern Hokkaido is bitter cold in the winter. Earthquakes occur often. Most of them do little damage, but severe ones in past years have taken thousands of lives.

Farming is the occupation of about half the people. A great many work in the factories and coal mines. Others have jobs in the forests.

As is to be expected in an island country, many Japanese make their living from the sea. Some are fishermen, whose catches of fish help to feed the country. Many are sailors on Japanese cargo ships, which travel all over the world to haul freight. Money earned from the cargo ships, in fact, is a major source of Japanese income.

Your Vocabulary

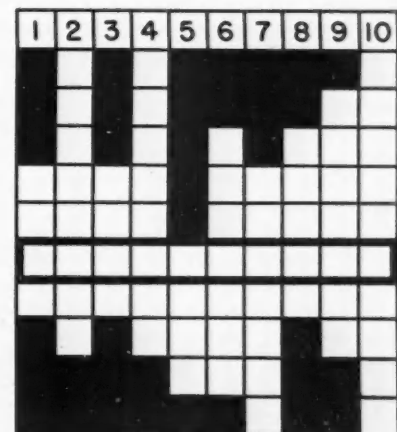
In each sentence below, match the italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are on page 8, column 4.

- On the other side of the table sat his *adversary* (ād'ver-sēr-i). (a) friend (b) opponent (c) lawyer (d) employe.
- His charges received widespread *credence* (krē'dēns). (a) opposition (b) publicity (c) belief (d) fame.
- His goal was to *emulate* (ēm'ū-lāt) the record of his father. (a) equal or excel (b) hide (c) find out about (d) bring forth.
- The hearings were characterized as *puerile* (pū'ēr-il) by one Briton. (a) important (b) childish (c) noisy (d) well managed.
- The senator's line of questioning was *inane* (in-ān'). (a) obvious (b) clever (c) entirely in order (d) pointless.
- He said he was not aware that it was a *spurious* (spū'rī-ūs) document. (a) genuine (b) famous (c) private (d) false.
- The effort was made to *insinuate* (in-sin'ū-āt) that he was guilty. (a) hint (b) deny (c) hide the fact (d) make certain.

PUZZLE ON JAPAN

Fill in the numbered vertical rows according to the descriptions given here. When all are correctly finished, heavy rectangle will spell the name of the state that is about the same size as Japan.

- Japan's chief food.
- _____ is a national sport in Japan, just as it is in the U. S.
- Japan is a leading producer of _____, a fine fiber that is somewhat less in demand now than it used to be.
- Name of Japan's Emperor.
- Japanese eat little meat, but they do eat _____ as a substitute.
- More and more Japanese women are giving up _____ in favor of western-style clothing.
- Japan, as an industrial nation, holds a position in Asia comparable to that of _____ in Europe.
- Japanese businessmen disagree over the question of trade with communist _____.
- Premier _____ is executive head of the Japanese government.
- Japan's _____ is too large for her small territory.



Last Week

ACROSS: Irrigation. VERTICAL: 1. California; 2. Cortines; 3. tortilla; 4. Villa; 5. Rio Grande; 6. Acapulco; 7. wetbacks; 8. Indians; 9. peso; 10. Nevada.

The Story of the Week



JAPAN'S PREMIER, Shigeru Yoshida

A Friend of the U. S.

Japan's Premier Shigeru Yoshida is a staunch supporter of close ties with the United States (see page 1 story). His friendship for Americans and for people of other western nations goes back to pre-World War II days—before Japan's attack on us. At that time, he wanted his country to make friendship agreements with the U. S. and Britain. His views were overruled by Japanese leaders who wanted to expand Japan's overseas holdings.

Yoshida, now 75 years old, spent much of his life representing his country abroad. He served in Washington, D. C., London, Rome, and in other world capitals. He also took part in national politics from time to time. In the 1930's, he unsuccessfully tried to prevent military-minded leaders from taking over the Japanese government.

At the end of the global conflict, Yoshida was asked by the American occupation leaders to serve as the defeated land's foreign minister. Later, he became premier. He has been the island nation's chief throughout most of the time since he first took that office in 1946. In the fall of 1952, his Liberal Party won its most recent test of popularity at the polls.

Two Decisions

Most GI captives who were held prisoner by the North Korean and Chinese communists stood firm against all Red threats and abuses. But a few former prisoners have been charged with (1) cooperating with the Reds in return for promises of favorable treatment by their captors; and (2) signing false communist charges that we used germs against the Reds in Korea.

For some time now, military officials have been grappling with the difficult problem of what to do about the men who cooperated with the Reds. The fate of some GI's, against whom such charges have been made, was still undecided as of last week. Decisions on others, including Marine Corps Colonel Frank Schwable and Army Corporal Edward Dickenson, have been reached.

Colonel Schwable, according to available evidence, was subjected to unusually harsh and brutal treatment to get him to sign false communist germ warfare charges. The Marine Corps decided not to take disciplinary action against Schwable, who was decorated for bravery in World War II, but it has put restrictions on this airman's future assignments.

Corporal Dickenson, who once em-

braced communism but later decided to come home, was convicted of cooperating with the Reds in such a way as to make prison conditions for his "buddies" worse than would otherwise have been the case. The Army decision in his case was a "dishonorable discharge" from the service and a sentence of 10 years at hard labor. The decision is subject to review by top military officials.

A Different Western

Lippert-Williams' film, "The Cowboy," is not just another Western. It is a picture story of men who lived in the untamed West of the past—cowboys who have become legendary in our history—who broke the wild horses to the saddle and rode them to round up the cattle roving the range. The film also shows the cowboy of today.

Star players of "The Cowboy" are genuine ranch hands as they go about their regular chores, or as they reenact the lives of their forerunners. Off-screen narrators, including Bill Conrad, Tex Ritter, and John Dehner, add words of explanation to the story shown in pictures. Eastman color, used in filming the picture, helps capture the magic beauty of the West.

On Guard

Along the frozen northern coast of Alaska and Canada, new silent watchmen are going to work. They are special radar stations that send automatic warnings of approaching aircraft to defense posts farther south. After making successful tests of the new radar listening posts last winter, the Defense Department has decided to go ahead with plans to build a chain of these stations across the Arctic. Canada is working with us.

When the new radar "fence" is finished, defense officials say, it will give our major northern cities at least six hours' warning of an impending bombing attack if one should come. At the present time, according to air experts, the same cities can count on the detection of enemy aircraft not much more than a half hour's flying time away from the targets.

All told, plans call for the spending of about a tenth of our entire defense budget, or somewhat less than four billion dollars, on continental defenses

this coming year. This includes funds for new radar stations, interceptor planes, and anti-aircraft guided missiles.

Defense Pact for Asia?

Last week, the United States, Britain, France, and a number of Far Eastern lands were discussing plans for setting up a southeast Asian defense system. We and our allies decided to go ahead with talks on a proposed Asian security plan without waiting for the final results of the Allied-communist parley on Asian problems held in Geneva, Switzerland.

We feel that swift action is of the utmost importance in organizing a Pacific defense system because (1) the recent tragic fall of Dien Bien Phu has brought about a grave political crisis in France; and (2) continued Red successes in Indochina might lead to the rapid spread of communism over all southeast Asia.

Though our allies agree with us on the need for an Asian defense pact, Britain and a few others say we should not try to push such a plan through too quickly. They still want to see what happens at Geneva.

In Geneva, meanwhile, talks continued last week on suggestions for ending the fight between French-supported Indochinese forces and the communist rebels. The outcome of these meetings, to which Indochinese and rebel leaders were invited, is not known at our press time.

Taft-Hartley Law

The Taft-Hartley labor law which governs relations between workers and employers was a leading issue in the last Presidential election campaign. Most Democratic leaders claimed that this law was favorable to management at the expense of labor. The majority of Republicans agreed that certain changes should be made in the measure, but they felt that in the main, it was a good piece of legislation.

After many months of study and debate, a Republican-controlled Senate committee gave its approval to a bill providing for a number of changes in the Taft-Hartley law. These proposed revisions had been submitted to the committee by President Eisenhower and his advisers.



THE WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS (WAC) was 12 years old on May 14. About 8,500 women now serve in the WAC, and many are on duty in foreign countries. Private Janet Stanhope of Erie, Kansas, is shown above at work in the Communications Center for NATO defense forces in France.

A short time ago the bill went to the floor of the Senate, where it was turned down and sent back to the committee for further consideration. There appears to be little chance that it will be acted upon again during the present meeting of Congress.

While most of the Democrats do not like the Taft-Hartley law as it now stands, neither did they like the changes recommended by the committee. In the Senate balloting, the Democrats voted solidly against the recommended revisions and a few Republicans sided with them, thereby enabling the defeat of the measure.

So the debate over the Taft-Hartley labor act is certain to continue in the future. Members of both parties are divided among themselves over what is right or wrong with this law. The average citizen has only a hazy idea of what it provides. Next week we shall explain the main provisions of the act.

Here and There

Congress is now studying a proposal, made by the Eisenhower administration, to set up a gigantic program for distributing surplus farm crops to hungry nations in other parts of the globe. We have an estimated 6 billion dollars' worth of unused agricultural products in our warehouses. At the same time, it has been estimated that about half of the world's people are underfed.

South Korea is slowly recovering from the devastation left by the war against communist aggression fought on its soil. Though the South Koreans are still seriously suffering from the effects of that conflict, a United Nations study shows that they are much better off than their neighbors in communist North Korea. Our aid has helped South Korea improve the living conditions of its people.

According to reports from the Far East, India and other nearby countries, which have often been critical of our Asian policies, are favorably impressed by our unselfish efforts to help rebuild South Korea. The Reds, meanwhile, have done very little to help the people of North Korea improve their status.

Russia has taken the wraps of



"THE COWBOY" is a top quality western documentary film

secrecy off a new giant swept-wing jet bomber. Similar to our late-model bombers, the new Soviet planes are believed to be able to fly swiftly from Russia to North America and back.

The House is now considering an Eisenhower-backed plan to send 104½ million dollars in aid to India. The money would be used by that country to improve the living conditions of its nearly 400 million people, many of whom are now living in poverty.

The European Coal and Steel Community, under which France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg have removed all tariffs on steel and coal traded among the nations, is looking forward to a bright future. The U. S. has agreed to lend the member nations 100 million dollars to help modernize their steel plants and coal mining equipment.

The Seaway bill, under which the United States and Canada will cooperate in opening the St. Lawrence River to ocean-going vessels, has now won the approval of both houses of Congress. The Senate passed the Eisenhower-backed measure last January. Earlier this month, the bill was approved by the House members who voted as follows: 144 Republicans and 96 Democrats *for*; and 64 Republicans and 94 Democrats *against*.

Congressional Probes

It is interesting to compare the length of the Army-McCarthy-Cohn hearings, which began April 22, with some other well-known congressional probes of the past.

The Teapot Dome inquiry, 1923-24, did not end until after some 80 days of testimony was heard. In this probe, high public officials were found guilty of handing over government oil lands to private concerns.

The Stock Exchange investigation, 1932-34, involved some 140 days of hearings over a two-year period. It was concerned with stock market practices.

The Pearl Harbor probe, 1945-46, took up nearly 70 days of hearings. It sought to fix the blame for our unpreparedness at the Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, base when the Japanese struck on December 7, 1941. It also tried to dig out other facts leading to this disaster.

The inquiry into the firing of General Douglas MacArthur, 1951, lasted for more than 40 days. It checked into the issues leading to President Truman's dismissal of General MacArthur as our Far Eastern commander during the Korean fighting.

Visiting Rangers

Next month, a number of teen-aged girls will get their first glimpse of the New York City skyline and other points of interest in the United States. The visitors will be Ranger Guides, similar to our Girl Scouts, from Belgium, the Netherlands, Panama, Switzerland, the Union of South Africa, and the French Antilles.

The Ranger visits are part of an international exchange program between U. S. Girl Scouts and similar groups in 32 other nations. The exchange plan was launched a year ago. It is financed by contributions of Girl Scouts and their sister organizations

in other lands throughout the world.

The Girl Scouts will act as hosts to the Rangers. For two months, the visitors will live in the homes of individual Scouts, attend Scout meetings, and take part in camping and other scouting activities.

Ireland Votes

Irish voters will go to the polls tomorrow, May 18, to elect new members of their Dail (legislature). The election is a test of popularity for Prime Minister Eamon de Valera and his Fianna Fail Party. If the Fianna Fail, which has had only a slim majority in the legislature, gets the largest number of votes, de Valera is likely to continue as Ireland's chief. Otherwise, a new leader must be chosen.

The Irish Republic has not always been able to choose its own leaders. First conquered by the English in the 12th century, Ireland was under British rule for many years.

After World War I, southern Ireland—now called the Republic of Ireland or Eire—was granted home-rule rights as a member of the British family of nations. Five years ago last month, the people of southern Ireland cut all ties with Britain. But the six counties of the north, called Northern Ireland or Ulster, decided to remain in the British Commonwealth and are today part of the United Kingdom.

Ireland's population declined over the years and now stands at 3 million inhabitants. Actually, there are more people of Irish descent in the U. S. today than in Ireland!

About three out of every four persons in the Irish Republic depend on farming for a livelihood. Potatoes, sugar beets, oats, flax, rye, and barley are important crops. The thick grass which grows everywhere provides food for large numbers of cattle and sheep. Fishing is an important occupation of people living in coastal areas.

Though there are not many industries in the Republic of Ireland, some new factories are going up. These



THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND holds elections Tuesday, May 18

turn out glass, shoes, cloth, cement, pottery, and wire products. The island country has little coal and few minerals. However, it does have plentiful supplies of peat—a brown substance formed of decayed plants. The peat is burned to produce electricity to power factories. Irishmen also burn it in stoves and fireplaces to heat their homes.

Soviet Secret Police

Western observers believe that Russia is having considerable trouble with its MVD, or secret police organization. Within the past few months, MVD agents in Australia, Japan, and West

Germany have quit communism and asked the free nations to give them a haven from their former boss—the Soviet regime.

Because of the growing number of defections among communist officials serving abroad, Moscow is now calling home some of its agents and diplomats. The Soviets apparently fear that many more of their officials might want to switch over to our side.

The MVD is a gigantic organization which has its own military forces inside Russia. Its agents are everywhere on the look-out for anti-Soviet ideas expressed by people living behind the Iron Curtain. The Soviet secret police are also engaged in espionage work around the globe. The ex-communist agents who fled to freedom are now giving us additional details of MVD operations.

Believe It Or Not!

A horse kept pestering Leo Durocher for a tryout with the New York Giants. Finally "Lippy" gave the horse a chance, and much to his surprise the animal slammed the first three pitches into the stands and whacked the fourth one against the center field fence. "Lippy" tried the horse at first, second, shortstop, and in the outfield. The animal was sensational—handling everything that came his way.

"Now," said Durocher, pointing to the pitching mound. "Get out there and throw a few."

"Don't be silly," came the reply. "Who ever heard of a horse that could pitch a baseball?"

Next Week's Articles

Unless unforeseen developments arise, the major articles next week will deal with (1) Congress and politics; (2) a roundup of world problems.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

A man was about ready to go to a political meeting. "I'm not prejudiced at all," he told a friend. "I'm going with a perfectly open and unbiased mind to listen to what I'm convinced is pure rubbish."

Judge: "Have you ever been in trouble before?"
Gangster: "All I ever did was to rob my kid brother's bank."
Prosecutor: "Your Honor, his kid brother is cashier of the Fifth National."



"Well, now that I'm hired, I'd like to speak to you about a raise."

Young man to his friend while horseback riding: "Shall we take the bridle path, Pamela?"
"Oh, George, this is so sudden!"

Youth: "I want to join the Army. I'm a track athlete."
Recruiting Officer: "Sorry. We don't want anybody who's trained to start running when a gun is fired."

Customer: "You said this blanket is all wool, and yet it is plainly marked cotton."
Clerk: "Well, you see, we marked it that way to fool the moths."

There is the story of the movie producer who was roused from his sleep by the cry of "Fire," and dressed in such a panic that when he reached the sidewalk his coat and pants matched.

Sergeant: "Are there any more questions about how to use a rifle?"
Private: "Tell me one thing—is it true that the harder I pull the trigger, the farther the bullet will go?"



A YOUNG LAD who makes it a hobby to collect comic books

Comic Books

(Concluded from page 1)

in the United States. About 8 per cent more youths under 18—as compared with only 2 per cent more adults—were arrested in 1953 than in 1952. People under 18 accounted for nearly half of all the burglary arrests, and more than half of all the car theft arrests, last year.

"There is considerable evidence to show that one cause of juvenile delinquency is the comic book which deals with crime and violence. In the first place, this type of book tends to glorify dishonesty and cruelty. It creates the impression that respectability is dull and outmoded.

"Second, the crime comic frequently gives lessons on criminal techniques. James V. Bennett, director of the U. S. Bureau of Prisons, says various comic books 'have blue-printed crime in such a way that it can be, and is, imitated.'

"Third, comic books frequently advertise guns, knives, and other articles used by young thugs. The stories create a desire for such weapons, and the advertisements tell how to get them.

"A young person whose surroundings are otherwise wholesome probably cannot be led into crime by comic books alone. But consider the youth who is already under various unfavorable influences. In many such cases, comics that glorify crime undoubtedly give the extra shove which pushes the boy or girl into actual wrongdoing.

"Television can do the same. Police officials in an East Coast town tell of a 9-year-old boy who had become an expert safecracker—apparently from watching TV crime programs.

"Many people believe that comic books and crime programs teach the lesson that crime does not pay. But in many stories, the eventual death

or capture of the criminal receives little emphasis in comparison with earlier scenes that show him outwitting the forces of law and order.

"Even if comic books and similar influences did not promote actual crime among youth, a strong case could still be made against them. Children who spend considerable time reading such books are likely to develop all sorts of twisted and unhealthy ideas. They grow up in a dream world where brutality is the normal way of life—where honesty, decency, and civilized conduct are played down or ridiculed.

"The comic books promote race prejudice and international bad will. Frequently they portray foreigners—particularly Asians and Africans—in villainous roles or as inferior peoples. Furthermore, large numbers of American comic books go abroad, where they create the impression that we in the United States dote on violence and cruelty. (According to Chester Bowles, former U. S. Ambassador to India, many of our movies also give foreigners a poor idea of present-

day life and customs in America.) "Relatively few American adults fully understand what kind of material the so-called comic books contain. Many believe that these books closely resemble the newspaper comic strip. Such is not the case. Few newspaper editors would publish the filth that goes into millions of comic books each month.

"On the whole, newspaper strips are of far better quality than the comics in book or pamphlet form. There are, of course, some harmless comic books, but not enough.

"The comic which glorifies wrongdoing is the ally of America's enemies. It weakens our nation by undermining the ideals of our youth. In an article devoted to the question of comic books, columnist Dorothy Thompson says: 'No super-duper weapons and no technological superiority will save a morally rotten society.'"

People who defend comics, TV programs, and movies which deal with crime and violence reply as follows:

"For many years, young people have enjoyed 'thriller' stories of one kind or another. Pirate stories and other adventure tales have been popular for many generations. Movies, television, and comic books simply provide new and more vivid ways of presenting exciting material. Young people need and want adventure fiction—including crime tales. They always have and always will.

"The comics industry shouldn't be blamed for the type of books it publishes. It simply gives the customers what they want. Critics keep demanding 'harmless' comics; but, as one crime-comic editor openly declares, 'the so-called harmless books just don't sell.'

"If parents ever succeed in getting their children to want something other than crime stories and thrillers, the entertainment industries will stand ready to satisfy the demand.

"The fact that large numbers of juvenile delinquents read comic books is no proof that the books cause their wrongdoing. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover says: 'It is doubtful if juvenile delinquency would decrease if crime comic books were not available.'

"A National Education Association booklet published in 1953 says: 'No acceptable evidence to date has shown [crime comics or TV shows] to have a significant relation to delinquent behavior.'

"Sociologist Henry McKay says: 'As a result of . . . time spent at the movies, listening to . . . the radio, or reading comic books, the modern child

can imitate a machine gun, . . . [tell in advance] the plots of murder mysteries, or play the role of superman. But there is reason to believe that these are just forms of play, without much meaning.'

"Critics describe cases in which young lawbreakers have obtained—from comic books, television, and the like—ideas on how to commit burglary and various other crimes. Undoubtedly such cases have occurred. But it would be hard to find an instance in which the comic book or the TV program is primarily responsible for juvenile wrongdoing. The young person won't absorb and use bad ideas from these forms of entertainment unless he is already headed for trouble.

"When parents and teachers don't adequately do their job of training a child or young person, then of course the youth will react in the worst possible way to anything he sees or reads. In such cases, the negligent parents are eager to put the blame on comic books, TV, or movies.

"Everybody agrees that comic-type publications have on many occasions been used for constructive purposes. U. S. government agencies have distributed cartoon books abroad to describe certain phases of America's foreign aid program. Similar publications were used in the training of servicemen and defense workers during World War II.

"Critics play down the fact that crime and horror stories do not make up the entire output of the comic-book industry. Large numbers of amusing animal-type comics are printed, and many young readers prefer these."

Censorship Issue?

Such are the arguments heard in the continuing debate over comic books and other entertainment mediums. Meanwhile, people who attack comics and crime programs are in disagreement among themselves as to what might be done about these influences. Some critics favor censorship laws to "clean up" the material that may influence young minds. Others fear that a system of censorship, once established, would expand to the point of endangering freedom for all sorts of programs and publications.

The state of New York last month passed some measures designed to help local law enforcement officials crack down on dealers who sell the publications that are most objectionable. Observers in many parts of the country are interested in seeing how effectively these laws operate.



JAMES BENNETT, Director of the U. S. Bureau of Prisons, believes that comic books portray methods of crime that young people may imitate



J. EDGAR HOOVER, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), doubts that comic books are a direct cause of juvenile delinquency



SENATOR Robert Hendrickson, New Jersey Republican, is chairman of a Senate subcommittee which has been studying causes of juvenile crime

Readers Say—

In our American history class, we split into two sides to discuss the issue of statehood for Hawaii and Alaska. One side took the affirmative, the other the negative. After our lively discussions were over, a majority of students voted to admit both territories as states.

CHARLOTTE THETFORD,
Cisco, Texas

★

I'd like to comment on the question of proposed salary boosts for congressmen and federal judges. It is said that the average lawmaker spends about \$3,000 more a year than he gets in pay from the government. I suggest, then, that the congressmen be given a raise of \$3,000, or whatever amount is needed by them to carry on their work. I am opposed to huge pay increases for our top officials.

CAROLYN POLLARD,
Sunnyvale, California

★

I believe that Senator McCarthy and his investigating committee is really doing a fine job of weeding out communists in our country. He has helped draw attention to a serious problem in our midst.

JAY DICK,
Romulus, Michigan

★

Our United States history class has sent these and other questions to our senators and representatives:

1. What right does Senator McCarthy have to call individuals "5th Amendment communists" if he has no proof of their guilt?

2. Do you think the Wisconsin lawmaker is accomplishing any good through his methods of hunting communists?

3. How many Reds has he actually uncovered?

We, as students of American history and government, have been taught to appreciate and cherish the principles of freedom as expressed in our Constitution. We think Senator McCarthy's tactics violate these principles.

LORNA CAMPBELL and JANET
SMITH for UNITED STATES
HISTORY CLASS,
Selah High School,
Selah, Washington

★

I disagree with reader Kenny Morris when he says that girls should pay their own way when they go out on dates. If the girl agrees to pay her way beforehand, that is a different story. Also, if a boy asks a girl for a date and he tells her he can't afford certain things, she will usually understand his predicament and help out.

JO ANN ZAHN,
Marshfield, Wisconsin

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Almost every letter we have received, from boys and girls alike, opposes the idea suggested by reader Kenny Morris.)

★

Our class members make scrapbooks of important news events. Each student clips news articles from newspapers and magazines.

DELORES HASENOEHL,
Spokane, Washington

★

In the May 3 issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, you gave the impression that the Secretary of Army's office had "monitored," or written down, only those telephone calls from Senator McCarthy and Roy Cohn. The fact was clearly brought out in the hearings that the Secretary's office has long engaged in this practice with all business telephone calls.

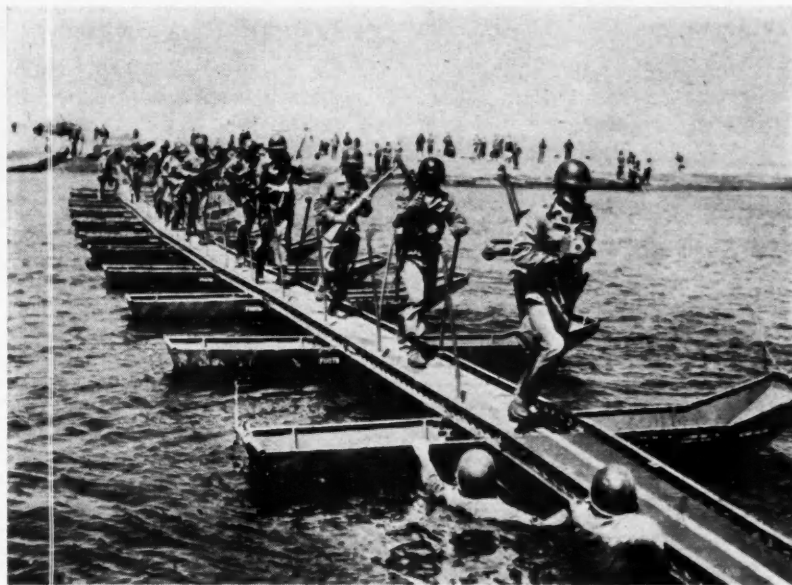
SUE WALSH,
Castleton, New York

(EDITOR'S NOTE: You are correct, and we regret it if we gave the wrong impression.)

★

I believe it is a good thing that we have two political parties in our country which differ with one another on many public issues. Even debate within each of the parties is helpful because it makes it possible for us to express many points of view without the danger, found in multi-party countries, of disrupting government policies.

AGNES FRANKS,
Fairbank, Pennsylvania



THE BRIDGE that came by air. U. S. Army forces race across an aluminum bridge during maneuvers in Japan. The structure is 474 feet long and weighs nine tons. It, along with an assembly crew of 160 soldiers, was dropped from Air Force "flying boxcars." Because it can be divided into easily portable sections, the bridge is looked upon as a valuable new aid to American armed forces.

UNITED PRESS

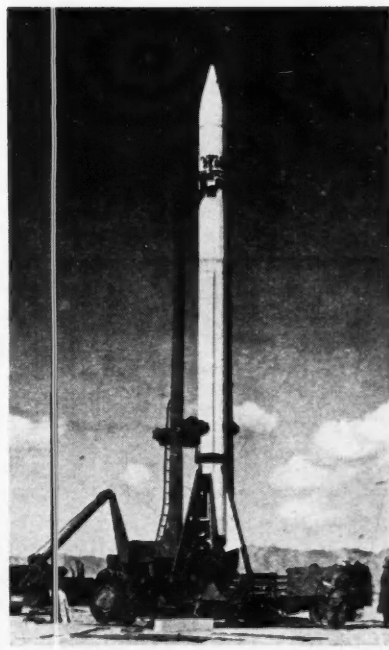
Science in the News

A VISITOR to New York's American Museum of Natural History may soon be able to have an expert lecture to him personally on each of the various exhibits.

The museum has installed a few demonstration portable earphones—receiving sets called "Guide-A-Phones"—which are designed to help visitors understand the exhibits without having the noise a public address system or group lecture would create.

After paying 35 cents, the viewer is fitted with a compact aluminum shoulder-strap receiver into which can be plugged one of two types of earphones—a headset for men and a handle-type for women which doesn't muss the hair.

The lectures come from a central sound room where five record players feed recordings continuously into wires leading to as many exhibit halls. The Guide-A-Phone picks up the sound waves from the wires which run around each of the five exhibit halls.



U. S. ARMY

CORPORAL, the Army's new guided missile, being raised to an erect firing position at a New Mexico testing ground. The Corporal could be directed at troops or at enemy cities in time of war and wreak great destruction.

When the lecture for one exhibit is ended, a bell on the record tells the viewer to move on to the next exhibit in the hall. People who are in the same exhibit hall and do not have Guide-A-Phones hear nothing.

★

The United States Army is operating an unusual chemical farm near Tokyo to provide fresh vegetables for troops stationed there and in Korea. The farm crops grow on beds of pure gravel without ever touching soil. They get water and chemical food through an irrigation system.

The gravel beds produce lettuce, tomatoes, radishes, cabbage, cucumbers, onions, parsley, and chard. Last year the farm produced 6½ million pounds of vegetables. Experts say there is no difference in taste between these and vegetables which are grown in soil.

The system is called "hydroponic farming." It is not expected to be used generally as the method is much too expensive. It is estimated to cost twice as much to grow vegetables by the hydroponic method as it does by traditional dirt farming.

The method is expensive because it requires testing facilities and technicians to plan the chemical "diet" for the crops. Furthermore, the chemical food is expensive. In ordinary farming, a plant gets its food from the soil—but gravel cannot provide this.

★

An electronic machine which automatically sets type with a beam of light was recently demonstrated.

The beam of light sets a type character on photographic film. It then sets another alongside the first, then another, and another. It is capable of setting type at a speed at least four times greater than the fastest mechanical typesetter now in use.

The machine is one of two units called "Linofilm" made by the Mergenthaler Linotype Company. One unit prepares the tape which operates the other, the automatic unit. Anyone skilled at typewriting can operate it. Its main operating part is a standard typewriter keyboard. There is also an extra keyboard. These keys are punched to indicate the kind and size of type to be used.

SPORTS

NONE of the 1,000 or so spectators who were present at Ifley Field in Oxford, England, one evening earlier this month will ever forget the experience. They witnessed one of the great feats of athletic history. They saw a fellow countryman, Roger Bannister, become the first athlete to break the four-minute barrier in the mile run.

Bannister ran the distance in 3:59.4 (three minutes, fifty nine and four tenths seconds). Thus, he broke by two full seconds the world record for the mile set by Gunder Haegg of Sweden in 1945.

The 25-year-old British runner has long been considered one of the world's outstanding track men. He has been training intensively this spring. About 15 minutes before the race, he decided to make an all-out effort to achieve the four-minute mile. During the first part of the race, other runners gave him stiff competition. In the last lap, he drove himself mercilessly.

Bannister's record-breaking achievement came about two years after the English runner suffered a great disappointment. At the 1952 Olympics, he had been a favorite to win the 1,500-meter run. He got off to a poor start, though, and finished fourth. He felt badly about his showing, but determined to keep on running and erase that defeat by an even greater performance.

The new champion of the milers won his first foot race at the age of 13 in western England. When he entered Oxford University, he was more interested in rowing on the crew than in running. Gradually, though, he swung back to track, and became a star runner on the university team.

Today Bannister is studying to be a doctor at St. Mary's Hospital in London. He thinks that his unusually



WIDE WORLD

ROGER BANNISTER. His mile was under four minutes—a new world record.

long legs and his tremendous lung capacity are major factors in his great success as a runner. His father is a British treasury official.

Bannister's record-breaking performance has given the British their greatest sports thrill in years. Since World War II, the people of Britain have not had much to cheer about in the athletic line. The mediocre showing of British athletes in recent years has been attributed in large degree to the poor diet which so many of them received during and immediately after the war.

Jobs for Tomorrow - - - A Military Career

IN trying to decide on your life's work, have you ever considered the possibility of a career in the armed forces? Actually, the Army, Air Force, and Navy (including the Marine Corps) have vast organizations which include people trained in nearly every trade and profession—chemists, writers, engineers, electricians, photographers, and many others. The services also have many positions available for high school graduates, whether or not they have had any previous work experience or specialized vocational training.

To enlist in any branch of the service you must, as a rule, be a citizen of the United States, in good physical condition, and at least 17 years old. All persons enlisting are given qualifications tests.

After entering any branch of the service, you are given a series of aptitude tests and you will be interviewed by personnel officers so that you can, if possible, be placed where the best use will be made of your talents.

Your training begins at a boot camp, as they say in the Navy and Marine Corps, or in a basic training center. There, as an enlisted man, you are taught fundamental military skills, military traditions and customs, and the code of conduct expected of you as a U. S. serviceman. You are also given an intensive course in physical training—to put you in tip-top condition and to teach you how to

handle yourself in difficult situations.

After this preliminary training is completed (it takes two or three months), a man may be assigned a technical job; or he may be sent to school to learn a skill. His assignment at this point depends upon the results of his aptitude tests and interviews, on his record during basic training, and on the needs of his



MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES (left to right)—in the Army, Air Force, Navy, and the Marine Corps

particular branch of the armed forces.

Your advancement will depend upon your ability and length of service. Each of the military services offers opportunities for training which may qualify a man for rank as a commissioned officer.

All branches of the armed forces also encourage men to add to their skills and general backgrounds through supplementary study. Correspondence courses are available and sometimes classes are held at mili-

tary posts where a man is stationed.

Your earnings, in dollars, may appear to be small. Base pay for enlisted personnel starts at \$78 a month, and that for the first commissioned grade starts at \$222.30 a month. However, in addition to base pay, enlisted men and officers receive their lodging and meals, or allowances to cover them; they are entitled to free dental and medical care; they receive allowances for dependents; and, if they stay in the service for at least 20 years, they are eligible for rather generous benefits on retiring.

Advantages are (1) opportunities for technical training; (2) advancement that is based on a man's abilities and interests; (3) financial security, both during a person's active years and in retirement; and (4) the opportunity to serve the nation in a very important way.

Disadvantages include the strict demands that military life requires of an individual. Often, he must leave his family at home or he must take them to out-of-the-way places to live. In addition, there are the hazards, although modern warfare is about as dangerous for civilians as for military personnel.

Additional information on any branch of the service can be obtained from your local recruiting offices. To locate these offices, look under "United States" in your local telephone directory, or ask about them at your local post office.

Study Guide

Comics

1. About how many comic books per month are produced in this country?
2. What congressional group has recently been investigating these books?
3. List some other entertainment mediums that have been accused of harmfully influencing youth.
4. Give arguments of the people who attack comics that portray crime, violence, and cruelty.
5. What is said by the defenders of such publications?
6. Name two federal officials who apparently disagree with each other on the influence of comics. What stand is taken by each?
7. How do the opponents of crime comics and other such influences disagree among themselves on what might be done about the problem?

Discussion

1. On the basis of your present information, do you think crime comics, movies, and TV shows promote juvenile delinquency? Why or why not?
2. In your opinion, would some form of governmental censorship over such mediums be harmful or beneficial? Explain your position.

Japan

1. Why have we urged Japan to rearm?
2. Outline the provisions of the defense pact between Japan and the U. S.
3. Why doesn't Japan raise enough food to meet her needs?
4. Compare Japan's position in Asia with that of Germany in Europe.
5. Why do some Japanese want to trade with communist China? Why are others opposed to such trade?
6. Give reasons why Japan has been falling behind some other nations in foreign trade.
7. What steps are being taken by the Japanese government to strengthen the economy?

Discussion

1. Do you think we should stop all aid to Japan if she trades with Red China? Why, or why not?
2. How do you think Japan can most effectively expand its foreign trade? Explain.

Miscellaneous

1. Briefly describe the background of Japan's Premier Yoshida.
2. How have military officials decided the cases of two former prisoners who were accused of cooperating with the Reds?
3. Name two well-known congressional probes of the past.
4. Who are the Ranger Guides?
5. Why is tomorrow (May 18) an important day for the Irish Republic? How do most Irishmen earn a livelihood?

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Answers to Your Vocabulary

1. (b) opponent; 2. (c) belief; 3. (a) equal or excel; 4. (b) childish; 5. (d) pointless; 6. (d) false; 7. (a) hint.

Pronunciations

- Dail—dawl
 Dien Bien Phu—di-én' bi-én' fōō'
 Eamon de Valera—ā'mun dē vā-lēr'uh
 Fianna Fail—fē'uh-nuh fawl'
 Hokkaido—hōk'kī'dō
 Honshu—hōn'shōō
 Kyushu—kyōō'shōō
 Shigeru Yoshida—she-ge'rōō yō-she'dā'
 Shikoku—she'kō'kōō

Historical Backgrounds--Comics, Cartoons

FOR the history of comic books (see page 1 story), we must look back over thousands of years to ancient times. Early man seems to have had a strong sense of humor.

At first, savage warriors used spoken words to express humor. Nicknames were given to enemies. Stories were told about the enemies. Their defects were exaggerated in an effort to bring about laughs.

Early man then cast about for a way to make his jokes last. He began to carve pictures of people he disliked on stone. Such stone carvings very probably were the first cartoons.

Cartoons as we know them today, however, became practicable only after the development of printing in Europe in the late 1400's. Single drawings, cartoons, were used to illustrate stories in books and, later, in newspapers.

Political cartoons apparently were first used in European newspapers, but they were quickly adopted by the colonies in early America. By the time George Washington became our first President, cartoons on political subjects in the new United States were in fairly general use.

Most famous of early newspaper cartoonists in this country was Thomas Nast, who died in 1902. He generally is given credit for originating the elephant as symbol of the Republican Party, and the donkey as the symbol of the Democratic Party.

Although we inherited the idea of cartoons from Europe, turning the cartoons into comic strips appears to have been a purely American develop-

ment. One of the first well-known newspaper comic strips appeared in the *New York World* in the late 1890's. It was Richard Outcault's *The Yellow Kid* strip.

Outcault's strip was built around a little fellow, dressed in a yellow shirt that reached to his ankles. The little fellow made funny "speeches," which were lettered on his shirt.

Rudolph Dirks started the *Katzenjammer Kids* about 1897. F. Opper's *Happy Hooligan* appeared in 1899. Within 10 years after their first appearance, comics were a regular Sunday feature in the country's larger papers.

The early comics were mostly for children but by the 1920's strips were



A 1914 CARTOONIST urged Uncle Sam to "sit tight" and try to keep out of World War I—which we entered in 1917

being offered for all age groups. There were features devoted to family life, and among these were *The Gumps* and *Gasoline Alley*. *Harold Teen* appeared to portray teen-age life, and *Winnie Winkle* had life of the working girl as its main theme.

Barney Google and *Moon Mullins* strips offered slapstick comedy. *Tarzan* and *Buck Rogers* appeared in 1929, and were followed by numerous other strips devoted to adventure.

Some strips took up "causes." *Dick Tracy*, the detective, for example, has been demonstrating for more than 20 years that crime does not pay. *Orphan Annie* has, at times, been devoted to political themes.

During World War II, many of the comic strip heroes were put into uniform. *Joe Palooka*, the boxer, was shown as a brave soldier in action in North Africa. After the war, *Palooka* was given a leading role in battling communism.

Comic books, as an outgrowth of the newspaper strips, were tried out as early as 1911. In that year, the *Chicago American* offered reprints of Bud Fisher's *Mutt and Jeff* in pamphlet form.

Famous Funnies, a 10-cent reprint series, was issued in 1934. It wasn't until 1938, however, that the appearance of *Superman* started the present deluge of comic books on the newsstands. By 1940, producers of 168 different comic books were selling over 12 million copies a month. Since then, the comic book business has grown tremendously. Publication of the books is highly profitable.